Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-01 CEA-01 IO-10 L-02 AGR-05 /098 W ------ 052770

R 271655Z JAN 75 FM AMEMBASSY RABAT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4403 INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN EGEN MO

SUBJ: MOROCCO SIGNS \$183 MILLION CREDIT AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE

- 1. ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT ON RETURN TRIP FROM WASHINGTON IMF COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MOROCCAN FINMIN BENSLIMANE STOPPED IN PARIS TO SIGN FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH FRENCH FINMIN FOURCADE. AS ANNOUNCED IN RABAT, AGREEMENT IS FOR 700 MILLION FRANC LINE OF CREDIT (APPROXIMATELY 183 MILLION DOLLARS)--470 MILLION FRANCS IN FORM OF GUARANTEED PRIVATE LOANS. ALSO SAW PREMIER CHIRAC AND SECSTATE FOR FOREIGN COMMERCE SEGARD.
- 2. COMMENT: DETAILS OF AGREEMENT NOT ANNOUNCED AND FRENCH EMBASSY CONTACTS DECLARE THEMSELVES UNINFORMED. FRENCH FINANCIAL COUNSELLOR IN PARIS FOR SIGNING BUT WILL NOT BE BACK UNTIL FEBRUARY 5. HIS DEPUTY OF OPINION THAT THIS IS 1974 CREDIT WHICH WAS HELD UP BY REASON OF DELAYED SETTLEMENT COLON LAND CLAIMS (ACCORD REACHED DURING FONMIN SAUVARGNARGUES VISIT) BUT OTHERWISE UNRELATED TO LAND CLAIMS ISSUE. HOWEVER VIEWED, THIS CONSTITUTES IMPORTANT AGREEMENT AND GOES SOME DISTANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOWARDS CLOSING \$750 MILLION FINANCING GAP IN 1975 GOM

BUDGET. ANNOUNCEMENT HINTS THAT FURTHER INFUSION FRENCH CREDITS MAY EVENTUALIZE FROM TALKS SCHEDULED FOR JULY. WITH EXPECTED COMMERCIAL BORROWING OF \$100-200 MILLION AND PROMISED CREDITS FROM SAUDIS AND OTHER OIL PRODUCERS, FINANCING SOMETHING APPROACHING FULL RANGE OF THIS YEAR'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES NOW LOOKS LESS REMOTE THAN AWHILE AGO. BUT WITH NEED REMAINING TO FINANCE PERHAPS TWICE TO THREE TIMES LAST YEAR'S GRAIN IMPORTS (UNDP NOW ESTIMATING GRAINS SHORTFALL OF 60 PER CENT); STILL NO RECOVERY IN PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT; AND PROBLEMATIC OUTLOOK FOR 1975 CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL TAX REVENUES, SUBSTANTIAL RETAILORING OF PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURES STILL ANTICIPATED. PLANNING MINISTRY CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN REVIEWING PLAN OBJECTIVES FOR EASTERN PROVINCES. END COMMENT. ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: CREDIT AGREEMENTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 27 JAN 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RABAT00458

Document Number: 1975RABAT00458 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750030-0136

From: RABAT

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750117/aaaaapew.tel Line Count: 77

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 19 MAY 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MOROCCO SIGNS \$183 MILLION CREDIT AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE

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To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006